

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PPDC

SUBJECT: VIII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: FIRST DAY

USDEL 1

1. FORMAL OPENING SESSION OF VIII GA JUNE 21 FEATURED
MAJOR SPEECH BY PRESIDENT CARTER (TEXT BEING SENT TO POSTS
BY WIRELESS FILE); FOLLOWING STRONGLY PHRASED INTRODUCTION
BY FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO OF COLOMBIA, ACTING CHAIRMAN;
AND RATHER ROUTINE SPEECH BY OAS SECRETARY GENERAL
ALEJANDRO ORFILA ON EVENTS SINCE GRENADA GA.

2. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF U.S.
POLICY TOWARD HEMISPHERE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ROLE
OF OAS AND ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED DURING VIII GA. MAIN
POINTS WERE:

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(A) PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. CITING EXAMPLE
OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF US AND PANAMA TO RECONCILE
DIFFERENCES OVER CANAL, PRESIDENT CALLED FOR GOOD FAITH
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SUCH HEMISPHERIC ISSUES AS BOLIVIAN

ACCESS TO SEA, HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE AND FUTURE OF
BELIZE. HE ALSO CALLED FOR BRINGING TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

INTO EFFECT AND EXHRESSED SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE
ON CONTROL OF CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS.

(B) HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED STRONG
US SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL RIGHTS. HE PRAISED INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION AND CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS TO GA. PRESIDENT ALSO
CALLED ON MEMBER STATES TO RATIFY PACT OF SAN JOSE
AND ASKED GA TO MAINTAIN PRESENT IAHRC UNTIL NEW
COMMISSION CREATED BY SAN JOSE PACT IS IN PLACE.

(C) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PRESIDENT CALLED FOR
DEVOTION OF COMMON ENERGIES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PROMISED THAT US WOULD GIVE EMPHASIS
TO ISSUES AFFECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE PLEDGED
TO CONTINUE TO RESIST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AND
CALLED FOR LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS INTRODUCED BY COLOMBIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, AS TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF
GA, WHO MADE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG ATTACK ON US ECONOMIC
POLICY AND NEGLECT OF OAS FORUM. LIEVANO CALLED UPON
MEMBERS TO FACE QUESTION OF WHETHER ECONOMIC ISSUES
OF INTEREST TO LATINS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED IN OAS
OR IN ANOTHER FORUM IN WHICH US DID NOT HAVE SAME
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OBLIGATIONS AS IN OAS. LIEVANO INVOKED DEEP ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL CONTRASTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF HEMISPHERE
AND SAID THESE WOULD BE WORSENER BY REBIRTH OF
PROTECTIONISM IN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND SUCH MEASURES
AS US TRADE ACT. HE SAID THAT PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS
ARE ALL THE MORE CONTRADICTORY TO SPIRIT OF INTER-AMERICAN
SYSTEM IN THAT THEY COINCIDE WITH QUOTE ABANDONEMENT
OF IMAGINATIVE UNDERTAKINGS OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY
UNQUOTE WHICH CHARACTERIZED US POLICY IN PRIOR YEARS.
PRAISING PRESIDENT CARTER'S ACTION ON PANAMA CANAL,
LIEVANO CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT VIII GA WOULD CONSIDER
MEANS TO REINVIGORATE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

4. AT AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, FOREIGN MINISTER OF
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RAMON EMILIO JIMENEZ WAS ELECTED
CHAIRMAN OF THE VIII OASGA BY ACCLAMATION. IN AFTER
NOON PLENARY SESSION, PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
DE LA PUENTE MADE LATIN AND CARIBBEAN RESPONSE TO

PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH. HIS HALF HOUR PRESENTATION
ECHOED MANY OF THE ECONOMIC CHARGES MADE BY LIEVANO
IN MORNING SESSION BUT LAID STRONGEST EMPHASIS ON

RESOLUTION OF PENDING INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS OF
OAS, INCLUDING DRAFT INSTRUMENTS, CHARTER, CONVENTION
ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND CONVENTION ON
COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

5. A DECISION ON THE ORDER OF INFORMAL DIALOGUE AGENDA
TOPICS WAS DEFERRED UNTIL THE FIRST DIALOGUE SESSION
MORNING OF JUNE 22. VANCE

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